

EAP 223 Academic Reading – Outside Reader: *Things Fall Apart*
PREREADING STUDY GUIDE – Chapters 8-10

Study Questions for Chapters 8-10 Use these questions to guide you through your reading of chapters 8-10. Document your answers on this sheet to help you study for the quiz on chapters 8-10.

1. What did Okonkwo do whenever he thought of his father's weakness and failure?
2. What did Okonkwo tell himself about his part in Ikemefuna's death?
3. What did Obierika tell Okonkwo about his part in Ikemefuna's death?
4. Describe the meeting to determine Obierika's daughter's bride price.
5. The men began discussing rumors about white men. Who did the men think the white men were?
6. Describe the relationship between Ekwefi and Ezinma.
7. Describe Ekwefi's difficulties in getting pregnant.
8. What did the medicine man tell Okonkwo after the death of Ekwefi's second child?
9. Describe the burial of Ekwefi's third child, and the reason for it.
10. Explain the significance of Ezinma's *iyi-uwa*.
11. How did Okonkwo cure Ezinma's *iba* illness?
12. What was the purpose of the ceremony described in Chapter 10?

Vocabulary for Chapters 8-10

Part I: Using Prior Knowledge and Context Clues.

Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Use any clues you can find in the sentence, combined with your prior knowledge, to understand the italicized words.

1. "When did you become a shivering old woman," Okonkwo asked himself, "you who are known in all the nine villages for your *valor* in war?"
2. As she buried one child after another her sorrow gave way to despair and then to grim *resignation*.
3. In that way she will *elude* her wicked tormentor and break its evil cycle of birth and death.
4. He brought out a sharp razor from the goatskin bag slung from his left shoulder and began to *mutilate* the child.
5. Her husband's wife took this for *malevolence*, as her husband's wives were wont to do.
6. At first Ekwefi accepted her, as she had the others - with *listless* resignation.
7. ...she could not ignore the fact that some really evil children sometimes misled people into digging up a *specious* one.
8. "No," said Ezinma, whose feeling of importance was manifest in her *sprightly* walk.
9. Most *communal* ceremonies took place at that time of day....
10. The *egwugwu* house was now a *pandemonium* of quavering voices.
11. ...the spirits of the ancestors, just emerged from the earth, greeted themselves in their *esoteric* language.
12. There was a loud murmur of *approbation* from the crowd.

Note: The following words are necessary for understanding the story, but will not be tested.

*On the third day he asked his second wife, Ekwefi, to roast *plantains* for him. A banana-like fruit, used as a staple food in tropical regions.

*Obierika was sitting outside under the shade of an orange tree making *thatches* from the leaves of the raffia-palm. Plant stalks or foliage, such as reeds or palm fronds, used for roofing.

*In Abame and Aninta the title is worth less than two *cowries*. Any of various tropical marine gastropods of the family Cypraeidae, having glossy, often brightly marked shells, some of which are used as currency in the South Pacific and Africa.

Part II: Determining the Meaning Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions.

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| ___ 1. valor | A. lacking in spirit or energy |
| ___ 2. resignation | B. wild uproar or noise |
| ___ 3. elude | C. courage in battle; bravery |
| ___ 4. mutilate | D. understandable; clear |
| ___ 5. malevolence | E. approval |
| ___ 6. listless | F. evil or harmful influence |
| ___ 7. specious | G. known only to the chosen few |
| ___ 8. manifest | H. to disfigure or cripple |
| ___ 9. communal | I. of a group of people. |
| ___ 10. pandemonium | J. avoid; evade |
| ___ 11. esoteric | K. seemingly reliable but incorrect |
| ___ 12. approbation | L. lack of resistance; patient submission |